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5 June 1946

Mr. Franklin D'Olier
Chairman, U. S. Strategic
Bombing Survey
Air Force Annex No. 1
Gravelly Point, Virginia

Dear Mr. D'Olier:

Some time ago you suggested to me that Central Intelligence Group examine the problem of disposing of the USSBS Files with a view to determining what material should be retained and where it should be permanently located to assure necessary security and adequate availability. Since that time members of the Central Planning Staff, C.I.G., have made a preliminary examination of the USSBS Files and talked with a number of persons in the State, War and Navy Departments, the National Archives and the Library of Congress.

Records of an agency under the War Department would normally be handled, and their disposition determined, through the AGO Records Management Section. It is our understanding, however, from a statement of your assistant, that although the Survey was originally established by the Secretary of War, it is not now under the War Department, but has the power to dispose of its own records and files. On the basis of this understanding, and as a result of the above survey, it is concluded that:

- (1) The screening should be done primarily by the agencies most interested, namely, the Office of the Special Assistant for Research and Intelligence (State Department), MIS (War Department General Staff), ONI (Navy Department), and A-2 (Army Air Forces).

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- (2) A necessary preliminary to such screening is the preparation by USSBS of a detailed index of the materials, for the use of the agencies mentioned and others, and for the eventual use of National Archives.
- (3) Captured German and Japanese documents should be sent to the German Military Document Center and the Washington Document Center, respectively.
- (4) The National Archives is the most suitable final repository for the rest of the materials, less those which are determined to have no further reference value, which may be destroyed. The National Archives can keep the materials together under conditions which provide for supervision and handling by competent personnel, accessibility to all authorized persons, and any necessary security protection; and has informally agreed to do so.

If you are in agreement with the above conclusions, we offer to accept responsibility for the custody of the subject files upon deactivation of USSBS. We request that the index be prepared in multiple copies sufficient for eventual distribution to all interested Government agencies. It should be in sufficient detail to describe adequately for screening purposes the various sections of the files, and should indicate the number of cubic feet of filing space required for each section.

The Central Intelligence Group will provide for the circulation of the index to interested agencies, and on the basis of their replies will make the decision on the materials to be retained.

If you wish to proceed on the basis outlined above, it will be appreciated if you can let me know the approximate date at which you expect the index will be completed, and the approximate date at which you expect final deactivation of USSBS, so that we can make our plans accordingly.

Sincerely yours,

/s/
SIDNEY W. SOUERS,
Director.

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Central Records (2)

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